



ISLE OF WIGHT CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING PROJECT

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2

Introduction/Update

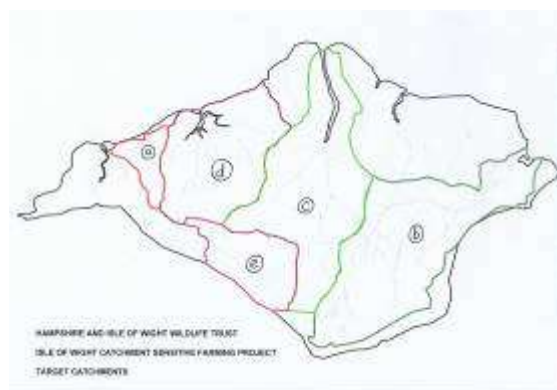
Since the launch of the Isle of Wight Catchment Sensitive Farming Project in October 2009, the IWCSF Officer has visited 45 farms and carried out 57 follow up visits within the key target areas.

Target Areas

The key target areas on the Island are:

- a : Thorley Brook
- b : Eastern Yar
- c : Medina
- d : NW Coast – including Newtown
- e : SW Coast – Grange –Whale chine

These catchments are thought to be the most important in terms of their use as a resource for drinking water, records of poor water quality and their wildlife value.



The initial recommendations and follow-up visits are aimed at providing farmers and landowners with up-to-date advice and guidance on resource protection issues. Assistance with applications for grant funding may then be provided to help to fund work to rectify any issues.

The following table shows the number of initial visits and follow-up visits that have been undertaken within each key target area:

Area		Oct 09 – Dec 10	
		New Visits	Follow – up Visits
a	Thorley Brook	1	3
b	Eastern Yar	17	12
c	Medina	9	9
d	NW Coast	11	16
e	SW Coast	7	17
Total		45	57

The main funding sources available to assist with resource protection are the Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) and Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) Schemes. These offer options for field corners, 6m field margins, in-field grass areas and arable reversion. If you would like to know more about these schemes please contact the Project Officer, Lucy Temple on 01983 533180 or lucyt@hwt.org.uk



Reports

A draft of the Nitrate & Pesticide Groundwater Pollution Prevention Action Plan 2010-2012 has been produced by the Environment Agency following investigations into current or potential failures under the Water Framework Directive. This plan is designed to target proactive pollution prevention through advice & campaigns in high risk areas. Data analysis of all groundwater bodies is proposed and evidence of pesticide and nitrate contamination would be collected under the plan.

Nitrate monitoring in the past showed that some parts of the Eastern River Yar had elevated levels of nitrates present which exceeded the drinking water levels. Turbidity has also been highlighted as a problem that is potentially related to issues of diffuse pollution and run-off.

What can farmers do to protect water and soil?

Good farming practice is essential, but sometimes more is needed to avoid soil erosion and run-off. ELS offers farmers a range of options to address water and soil protection by:

- **Tackling the source** by preventing run-off and erosion. Your Soil Protection Review will help to highlight the areas most at risk. Solutions include; preventing poaching, cultivating across slopes or growing winter cover crops.
- **Slowing the pathway** by putting in place options to slow the pathways of erosion and runoff. Solutions

include; grassing valley bottoms or simply grassing a field corner where run-off collects.

- **Protecting the receptor.** If source and pathway control options do not help to stem the problem – particularly on steeply sloping fields with vulnerable soil types, other solutions to protect watercourses include; buffer strips which slow, filter and trap pollutants and fencing off watercourses can prevent poaching and faecal contamination.

Completing the Soil Protection Review will help farmers to identify areas of risk, taking in to account the soil type and slope and ELS or HLS may help to fund some of the solutions.

IWCSF Website

The website for the Isle of Wight Catchment Sensitive Farming Project may be found at www.iwcsf.org.uk This site is regularly updated in order keep farmers and land owners up to date with the project. Topics include notes on the meetings of the Steering Group and quarterly reports of activities as well as links to partnership organisations and important regulations and agri-environment schemes. The website also brings you news about events and workshops linked to the project on the Island.

